

Canadian Moving Picture DIGEST

Established
1915

Publication: Weekly
Subscription: \$2.00 yearly

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Associate Editor

Digest International Press
Film Service
syndicating 500 leading
newspapers in Canada,
U.S.A. and Great Britain.

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Editor and Publisher

THE LITTLE PAPER WITH THE BIG IDEAS
"Easy to Digest"

Published by
Canadian Moving Picture
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Vol. 29, No. 49

TORONTO 2, CANADA

March 26th, 1938

"YOU SCRATCH MY BACK AND I'LL SCRATCH YOURS"



THE British Film Quota Act is beginning to have the repercussions on the American Continent which The Digest feared.

There has been some discussion of its effect on Canada and the other Dominions, in relationship to the clause which excludes pictures made in Canada and the Dominions as acceptable for British Quota purposes.

When the exclusion of pictures made in Canada, Australia, etc., was first presented by the C.E.A. (Cinematograph Exhibitors Ass'n.) we wondered why exhibitors in England, interested in securing a quantity of British-made pictures would seek to introduce a clause so far removed from their interests; and we wondered if someone interested in production in England had not inspired the Amendment governing this Dominion-Exclusion Clause.

Now that the clause has become part of the Quota Film Bill, we are convinced that it is a producers' idea, introduced to centralize all British film production in the United Kingdom.

The alibi that Canada and the other Dominions do not require the Quota consideration because British pictures may be imported into the country to compete with American importations and British-made films, gives Canadian product and the product of the other Dominions no opportunity of dealing with the exhibitors direct, but relegates the Dominions to trading with the exchanges.

A letter from Mr. Leonard Bishop of Central Films, Canada's leading feature production company, presents some points worthy of consideration. We republish excerpts from this letter. "Dear Miss Lewis:

"I note with interest, in the issue of March 12th, your editorial on the new Quota Act which has just been passed in the United Kingdom. It

is quite true, as you say in your editorial, that Central Films Limited which has, in the past two years, produced twelve feature pictures in British Columbia, will be eliminated entirely from the production field in Canada.

"Although of course primarily we are interested in our own affairs, we also feel that the balance of the British Empire, including Canada, has been grossly discriminated against and shut off from the market in the United Kingdom from which they had a right to expect protection. The new Act, to the layman, sounds very encouraging because there are two Quotas — the Renters' Quota and the Exhibitors' Quota. At this point I would like to point out to you that the Renter is really what we term in this country the Distributor and therefore we, as the Producer, have to sell to the Distributor and cannot sell directly to the Exhibitor. You will, therefore, see that this Act has been drawn up in such a way that to the layman (which includes some of Canada's own Ministers who made representations on our behalf), it would appear, because of the Exhibitors' Quota, favorable towards production in Canada. However, we can no longer sell our product to the American companies with a leverage under the Quota Act. Of course we can sell on the open market in the United States and the United Kingdom, but you know what the open market in the United States means, and what we can expect from it.

"Although it is stated in the Act that under the Exhibitors' Quota, a Canadian film can be taken into the United Kingdom without matching with a U.K. film there is no incentive for the United Kingdom Renters to buy a Canadian film for his market where it will not count as a Quota film for him. You must remember that to get our films to the exhibitor it is compulsory under the Act that we must first of all sell them to the Renters because we ourselves are not permitted to handle any distribution in the United Kingdom."

(Continued on Page 9)

RAY



RAY LEWIS

PRESENTS

DUE to the serious illness of Mr. Joshua Smith, R.B.A., husband of Ray Lewis, the program, "Ray Lewis Presents", heard every Wednesday evening over Station CKCL, at 8.30, was presented this Wednesday by "Jay L", pinch-hitting for your Editor.

The Ray Presents of this week will consist of the entire programme as presented by "Jay L", Wednesday.

"Good evening, movie fans. This is 'Jay L' of The Digest, pinch-hitting for Ray Lewis, Editor of The Digest, who is unable to talk to you tonight.

"For the past few weeks, the Canadian Moving Picture Digest, has been conducting a movie contest on the Ray Lewis Presents programme, offering three cash prizes for the best answers to the following questions, 'Why Do You Go To The Movies?' 'Do You Like Double Bills or Don't You?'

"In last week's issue of the Canadian Moving Picture Digest we published the names of the judges who were selected, in addition to our own representatives, to name the prize-winners from approximately three hundred letters which we have received. The judges were as follows: Mr. Roly Young, movie critic of the Toronto Globe and Mail, Mrs. M. K. Bennett of RKO Distributing Corp. of Canada, Mr. Henry Nathanson, general manager of Regal Films Ltd., Mr. Louis Rosenfeld, general manager of Columbia Pictures of Canada Ltd., Mr. Wolfe Cohen, Canadian general manager of Warner Bros.-Vitaphon, and Mr. Tom Walton, owner-manager of the National Theatre, Yonge Street, Toronto.

THE readers of The Digest are aware that as a publication, we have for many years argued against double-bills, believing that the quality pictures which are being made today, have sufficient entertainment for the charge of admission made, and that using one feature gave the theatre manager an opportunity to present a more diversified program.

"After reading through hundreds of letters from movie fans, who have no theatre or production affiliations, and who are, after all, the public who pay at the box-office, we submit to their qualification as Public Opinion, which votes FOR double bills.

"Of the three hundred letters which we have received, not more than twenty-five letters stated that they preferred single features.

"The most interesting phase of this Movie Contest was revealed in the information contained in the letters, which stated that the majority of the patrons of motion pictures attend this form of entertainment, because it is an escape from the realities of life, that it is a relief for a few hours from worry, that it is the most inexpensive entertainment offered, and that it is decidedly informal; which means that you don't need a taxi-cab or a car to get there, a picture house is always around the corner; that you don't have to have a corsage, wear white gloves, go and have your hair curled, have your trousers pressed, or go out and buy a new evening gown or a dress tie — you can go just as you are, which means in your everyday working clothes. You can stay an hour or two, or four if you want to stay longer; no one tells you that you've seen the picture once before, and therefore you must leave the theatre.

IF you're late in getting there, you are still in time for a complete show. Perhaps all these facts have escaped you, and have escaped those who are directly concerned with the business of motion picture, since this form of entertainment has been with us since Mother and Dad were sweethearts, and the children have grown up with it. When you grow up with anything, you generally take it for granted, just as you know that Santa Claus is going to be there every Christmas.

"And now, for the prize winners of The Digest Movie Contest. I take pleasure in introducing to you, Roly Young, movie critic of the Toronto Globe and Mail, who has been chosen to read the prize winning letters and announce the prize-winners. Mr. Roly Young!"

"Thanks 'Jay L', and hello everybody!"

"I forgot my white gloves, and my hair isn't curled, and the rain has taken all the crease out of my pants, but to misquote Shakespeare, I come not to bury the contestants but to praise them.

"The board of judges, representative of the press and the motion picture industry in various departments, was a completely impartial group, but I can't say we were disinterested. Indeed we were all highly interested in your observations on the two subjects, namely why you attend movies and your opinion of double bills. It was quite an eye-opener to all of us to find that you were so ready to express yourselves on this score. Literary merit was not a factor in the judging,

(Continued on Page 9)

"RAY LEWIS PRESENTS" SCREEN CELEBRITIES, REVIEWS AND NEWS, EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING, STATION CKCL, 8.30-8.45

Digest Reviews and Previews

The music is good, with "Take A Tip From A Gypsy" the best number of the score.

Direction is by H. Bruce Humberstone, and the story is an original by Robert Ellis and Helen Logan.

Running Time—approximately 75 minutes.

PERSONAL MUSINGS

ALF PIGGINS of Warner's Toronto office, and his fellow-members of the Frenchman's Bay Yacht Club received considerable space in the March issue of the Canadian Boating magazine. Alf and the boys are building a fleet of eighteen Class A Moth boats, familiarly known as "cat-boats". The "cat-boats" are the smallest class of racing dinghys, and the boys are planning several races with the boats when completed. All the work is being done by hand, with the machine-age completely in the discard.

N. Trebish of the Capitol, Meaford, Ont., was in Toronto this week.

Jimmy Nairn of the Famous Art Dept. is back in Toronto after a three weeks' holiday in sunny Florida.

The staff of Branch Manager M. Plottel of Montreal forged ahead this week in the Ned Depinet RKO Radio Drive. Looks like Montreal takes all the money.

Fred Guest, who owns several theatres in Hamilton, Ont., paid Toronto a visit this week. He was accompanied by his booker, Miss Elliot.

A letter from Dewey Bloom, in charge of Metro exploitation in Canada, contains some of the "Baby Snook Sayings", sent to Roly Young of the Globe and Mail in connection with a contest he is running. Several sayings are worth repeating. For instance, "Marilyn, age four, was standing watching Mother prepare tomato soup for dinner; the front door bell rang and Mother went to answer it — all of a sudden she heard Marilyn's frantic cry; 'Mummie, Mummie, come quickly, the soup's getting bigger than the pot'; and "Little Lena, upon being given some carbonated water (selzer) for the first time, exclaimed, 'Oh, Mummie, the water is spitting in my face'".

F. Graham of the Reenville, Walkerton, Ont., was a Queen City visitor this week.

The screening Room of Associated Theatres in the Film Exchange Bldg., Toronto, has been completely re-

seated. Also, the new restaurant of Associated Theatres has been opened on the sixth floor of the Film Exchange Bldg.

The Hollywood Theatre, Niagara Falls, Ont., which for a time was operated by Maurice Love, is back in the hands of Ralph Biamote, the owner.

Sam Russ, of the Gaiety, Collingwood, was around the Toronto exchanges arranging bookings this week.

All members of the staff of the Montreal Branch of 20th Century-Fox received four weeks salary as their prize for winning the fifth anniversary Kent Sales Drive.

Albert Bey, of Bey's Cinema, Thetford Mines, Que., paid a recent visit to Montreal.

Away back last May, your reviewer read a novel by Octavus Roy Cohen, entitled "I Love You Again", which appeared serially in Collier's Magazine. At that time the Editor was in England, and for the May 22nd issue, we had to "pinch-hit" for Miss Lewis in the Ray Presents. Among other things, we reviewed the story, "I Love You Again", writing:

"What a motion picture this story would make! . . . The manner in which this tangled skein of circumstances is unravelled to the satisfaction of everyone but the actual murderer, makes a fascinating piece of reading, and would make an even more fascinating motion picture."

"I submit that William Powell and Myrna Loy of 'Thin Man' fame, would be the ideal choice for the role of Larry Wilson and his wife, Kay, with James Stewart cast as Duncan Campbell, Jr., and Gail Patrick as his wife, Rita. Edward Brophy would also be a perfect casting as Jason Rountree."

In this week's announcement by Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer of its production schedule for the 1938-39 season, was listed a picture entitled, "I Love You Again", co-starring William Powell and Myrna Loy.

"Say L."



Reproduction of a window of a Honey Dew Shop, Yonge Street, Toronto, exploiting Walt Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs".
Photo by Digest Staff Photographer.

Digest Celebrity Series



ARTHUR A. LEE

ARTHUR A. LEE, head of Gaumont-British Pictures of America, the distributing company for the British product, was born in Harlem, New York, July 18th, 1894. He has been actively engaged in Show Business since 1912, when he came to Canada to roadshow "Oliver Twist", starring Nat C. Goodwin, which was one of the first five-reelers. In 1913, Arthur Lee joined the General Film Co. in Montreal, and was later appointed manager of the special feature department in Canada. He returned to the U.S. with Picture Playhouse Film Company, opening offices for them throughout the U.S. Leaving Picture Playhouse, he joined Gaumont-British in New York, and has been with Gaumont ever since with but three brief interruptions. The first, to enlist in the Army in July of 1918, being discharged at the end of the year. The second interruption was to form Lee Bradford Corporation, which operated until Bradford's death in 1925. Arthur Lee then accepted the presidency of Amer-Anglo Corp., but soon returned to Gaumont-British. He is a frequent visitor to Canada, owning an island, known as the "Royal Canadian" in the lake district, where he spends his summers with his family. He is a member of the Canadian Club.

Any biography of Jule Allen is also a biography of his brother, Jay J. Allen, for the business careers of both these brothers have been closely interlocked. It was in 1906, that Jay J. Allen, who had visited Hamilton, Ont. on a trip, conceived the idea of opening a nickelodeon in that city. Jule Allen first took the trip to Hamilton with a projector and some short reel pictures, but found no store suitable for his requirements. He boarded the train and went to Brantford, where he started a theatre called the Theatorium. Later "Jay J." joined him, and within a very short time, the Allen Freres were operating three theatres in that city, and the three houses in a few years grew into fifty-one theatres in twenty-one cities. In 1909, the brothers started a film exchange, and had the Canadian franchise for Famous Players pictures up to 1920, when Famous opened their own exchanges. They imported Pathe films from Europe, Biograph pictures from New York, and the Imp productions from Hollywood. In 1910 the brothers moved their headquarters and exchange to Calgary, Alta., where Herbert J. Allen, another brother, joined them. Branches were opened in Winnipeg and Calgary, and several new theatres were built. Branches were then added in Toronto and Montreal, and they crossed the border and opened a theatre in Cleveland with a seating capacity of 3,400 and one in Detroit with 4,000 seats. In 1920-21 the Monarch Film Co. was organized to handle Goldwyn Pictures here, and a year later they established Dominion Films Ltd. to handle British and independent product. Today Jule and Jay J. Allen occupy positions of great importance in the Canadian Film Industry. They have considerable holdings in Columbia Pictures of Canada, which they helped to organize in 1927, as well as interests in Premier Operating Corp., and Theatre Holding Corp.



PREMIER HEPBURN THREATENS INVESTIGATION OF THEATRE-OWNERS

Toronto, Ont.—Premier Hepburn of Ontario this week launched a blast against theatre-owners who have failed to pass on to their patrons the benefit of the Government's total abolition of the amusements tax. Mr. Hepburn threatened immediate investigation, saying "Before this tax was cancelled . . . I had a conference with the principal theatre-owners of the Province and received from them their solemn promise that . . . they would pass along the benefit to their patrons, and in no case would increase the price of admissions . . . reports have reached me that this promise has not been honored, and I propose . . . to institute an immediate investigation . . . unless theatre-owners keep faith with the people, they need not be surprised if this Government takes some appropriate action".

J. J. Fitzgibbons of Famous Players Canadian Corp., when questioned, said that he knew of no theatres that had not passed on to their patrons the benefits of the abolition of the amusements tax.

Herbert Allen, head of a large chain of theatres said that he believed there were some theatres that were still charging the extra few cents, despite the abolition of the amusements tax. Mr. Allen stated that due to increased production costs, many theatres would have had to increase their admissions if the tax had not been abolished.

Photodrome Renovated

Toronto, Ont. — The Photodrome Theatre, Queen Street, Toronto, owned by Sam Ulster, is to undergo interior alterations at an estimated cost of \$500. Gatehouse Brothers, Ltd., 989 Bay Street, has been awarded general contract for the work.

Protest Interference

Vancouver, B.C. — President A. M. Stephen, of the Canadian League for Peace and Democracy, announces in a letter to the Daily Province that "it is our intention to call for a public investigation of the extent to which foreign consulates in Vancouver interfere with the democratic rights of British Columbia citizens in the matter of film censorship". The action of the League is a direct result of the chief censor's ordering an alleged 2500 cuts in the film, "China Strikes Back", on the grounds that the picture might prove displeasing to the Japanese Government representatives here.

Alter Queen St. Theatre

Toronto, Ont. — Jay I. English, architect, is receiving tenders for an unstated time on a proposed \$30,000 addition and alterations to a theatre on Queen Street W. here. Four firms, Crown Construction Co. Ltd., 258 Palmerston Ave.; Globe Construction Co., 59 Sussex Street; Fried Construction Co., 70 Victoria Street, and C. Temes, 45 Boswell Ave., are figuring general contract on the job.

Profits Up

Hamilton, Ont. — Strand Hamilton Theatres Ltd. showed a net profit of \$8,262 for a fifty-two week period ending January 1st, 1938, compared to \$2,790 for fifty-three weeks ending January 2nd, 1937.

Savoy Theatre Damaged

Verdun, Que. — The Savoy Theatre here was severely damaged by an explosion, believed caused by a collection of gas in the chimney, and which blew out a section of the outside rear wall of the house. No one was injured as the explosion occurred just shortly before midnight, and the building was empty except for a few employees. A call was sent in at once for Verdun firemen who arrived shortly, but the blast was not followed by fire. The Savoy, operated by Confederation Amusements Ltd., has only been open a few weeks.

See Chinese Film

Saskatoon, Sask. — Members of the Saskatoon Branch of the National Film Society formed the audience at the Technical School recently at a showing of the all-Chinese motion picture, "Song of China". The film showed that definite progress has been made by the Chinese in the art of making motion pictures. Many beautiful Chinese interiors were shown in the picture.

Jack Kearney Promoted

St. Catharines, Ont.—Jack Kearney, assistant manager of the Granada Theatre here for the past two years, has been promoted by Hanson Theatres Corp. to the post of manager of the Hollywood Theatre, Dunnville, Ont. The staff of the Granada made a presentation to Mr. Kearney on the eve of his departure, and this was followed by an address in which was expressed the appreciation of the staff for the good fellowship which Mr. Kearney has always exhibited, and congratulations and best wishes for the future were extended. In reply, Mr. Kearney thanked the staff for their kindness and co-operation, and credited Manager Leo Coyle for the promotion he has received, and expressed a wish that he would be able to prove himself worthy of the confidence reposed on him.

New Geraldton House

Geraldton, Ont. — Alf Schwartz, manager of the Strand Theatre here, last week announced plans are being drawn for construction of a new theatre here. The house will be owned and operated by Theatre Holdings Ltd. of Toronto, and will seat 800 persons. Present plans call for a start on construction May 1st. The site is on Main Street near the Telephone Building.

1,000 Seater For Lethbridge

Lethbridge, Alta. — American and Eastern Canada interests have just purchased six lots on the corner of Fourth Ave. and Eighth Street South here from Baalim Motor Co. Ltd.; a new motion picture theatre and store building will be erected on the property. Total amount to be invested in the enterprise is estimated at between \$80,000 and \$100,000, but details are lacking at this time. The theatre will have a seating capacity of 800 to 1,000, and further details will be announced as the plans develop.

KITCHENER CITY COUNCIL AND ST. CATHARINES TRADES AND LABOR COUNCIL PROTEST AGAINST CHANGE TO CINEMATOGRAPH ACT

Kitchener, Ont.—The Kitchener City Council, on recommendation of the fire and light committee has taken a definite stand against representations being made to the provincial government by moving picture theatre owners for certain amendments to the Theatres and Cinematograph Act. If the amendments were passed, theatres would only have one motion picture operator in the projection booths instead of two now required by law. According to the amendments suggested, each operator would have an apprentice in the booth with him, but the Council felt that this would increase fire hazards and would also throw out of work qualified operators by substituting inferior projectionists. It is understood that the St. Catharines Trades and Labor Council is also protesting to Premier Hepburn and Mr. Silverthorn, head of the Ontario board of censors, against any change in the present legislation.

Matthew Fox, Samuel I. Posen, J. Dabney Penick Elected To Universal Board.



By MERRYL LEA

THE judges of The Digest Movie Contest, which Ray Lewis conducted during her weekly broadcasts every Wednesday evening over Station CKCL, met to decide the three best letters received, on Tuesday, March 22nd, at the Royal York Hotel.

Around the luncheon table were, Mrs. M. K. Bennett of RKO Radio, Mr. Henry Nathanson of Regal Films, Mr. Louis Rosenfeld of Columbia Pictures, Mr. Wolfe Cohen of Warner Bros.-Vitagraph, Mr. Tom Walton of the National Theatre, Mr. Roly Young, movie critic of The Globe and Mail, "Jay L", and yours truly.

In order to better facilitate the judging of the letters, the Movie Contest Editor had read through approximately 300 letters, picking out 25 which were considered the most suitable for the awards. The letters were read aloud by "Jay L", and the judges recorded their opinion of each. At the conclusion of the reading the results were tallied up, and it was found that the judges were unanimous in their choice of letter No. 1 as worthy of the first prize of \$15, letter No. 19 was chosen as second prize winner to receive \$10, and letter No. 8 third, to receive \$5.

The meeting went along, as always, subject of discussion being each one's particular business — moving pictures. Also discussed was the importance of trade papers in the Motion Picture Industry. The judges found the letters most interesting, and such comments as, "I go once a week and stay until the theatre closes", and "As a mother of nine I like double bills because I can get my money's worth", drew quite a laugh.

Unfortunately, owing to the serious illness of her husband, Joshua Smith, Miss Ray Lewis, Editor, and conductor of the "Screen Celebrities, Reviews and News" program, through which this Contest was held, was unable to be present.

ORPHEUM Theatre, Vancouver, B.C., presented the Hudson's Bay Company spring style show, "Sweet-heart Fashions, A Musical Style Extravaganza" as an attraction for the entire week. "Merrily We Live" the

M - G - M comedy with Constance Bennett and Brian Aherne supplied the movie fare.

THE Evening Times-Globe is running a contest for boys and girls. The noon edition of the "Donald Duck" comic strip is to be colored, the best work winning the prizes amounting to \$20.

"Donald's Ostrich", "Donald's Self Control", "Donald's Better Self", are shorts now playing across Canada. "Donald's Nephew" is the latest short now ready for release.

BEACON Theatre, Vancouver vaudeville show presented: Joe Christie & Co.; Three Astor Girls; Chesney and Worth; Billy and Dolly Nash; and Fulton and Wells.

PLAYHOUSE Theatre, Winnipeg, stage show presents Clyde Lucas and his California Dons. Also hold over from last week's show, Lina Basquette; The Banfields; Dobson and Burke; Dawson Butler; The Marfields.

BEACON, Winnipeg, vaudeville offers The Great Warneke, magician; Danny Montague, dancer; Eddy Blaney, accordion player; Florence Court, mistress of ceremonies and dancer; and Bill Moore and his band.

IT IS TO LAUGH

ALMOST 100 per cent of the prisoners in the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph, attend church services Sunday mornings. Attendance is voluntary, but only those prisoners who have attended church may enjoy the newly inaugurated Sunday evening motion picture program. The prisoners who attend the church are given tickets for the motion picture show. It looks as though the church has copied the exhibitors in the custom of "giveaways".

While on the subject of "giveaways", a distracted husband came to me for advice.

"We have only been married a few months," he said, "and my wife has a habit of smashing cups and saucers in a fit of temper, over my head. What should I do?"

"Well," said I, after deliberating for a split second, "Encourage your wife to go to the movies. You will then obtain all household crockery free of charge."

* * *

The Empire Theatre, Saint John, N.B., this week is playing two features—"The Great Hospital Mystery", "Petticoat Fever".

STOP THE PRESS!

Social Service Council of Saskatchewan suggests Board of Censors be established for the three Prairie Provinces.

On January 1, 1938, 76.5% of the population of Canada had primary Radio service.

Spencer Tracy thinks Freddie Bartholomew should have won the Award. Says he is "Tops".

909 English postmen were bitten by dogs last year, states M. H. Halton, English correspondent of the Toronto Daily Star. Trust a dog's sense to know that the postmen were bringing bad news.

CBC to control broadcasts of "facsimile" Radio Transmission, through which newspapers may be broadcast.

Circuits control 44% of American and Canadian theatres.

House of Lords fixes Renters' Quota at 20% and Exhibitors' Quota at 15%, also raising quota on shorts from 10% to 15% for Renters and from 7½% to 12% for Exhibitors.



Reproduction of the "Snow White" tumblers being given away by the Charles Gurd Co., in Toronto and Montreal, to purchasers of Gurd's Dry Ginger Ale.

"You know," said a local movie columnist, "in Europe a man in riding pants surrounded by yes-men is called a dictator. Over here he is called a movie director."

* * *

In view of the terrific publicity and tie-ups in connection with "Snow White", Torontonians are of the opinion that a "dizzy blonde" has nothing on a certain "Disney brunette".

"Snow White" Still Tops Montreal In 4th Week, Palace.

British Film Digest

By WARD SHAFTESBURY

TO those of us who have grown up in the routine life of a modern city, few vocations seem to hold the thrill and the glamour of those of earlier days. Adventure is apparently a work of the past — the world is all discovered — the pioneer days are over and gone — even a fireman's job has lost its old appeal. There is still, however, for those who lust after the new and exciting, one kind of work which has all the intoxication, all the spirit-stirring fascination of the old adventurous days. I refer to the life of the motion picture cameraman. Just lately, I received some very interesting information regarding London Films' new production "The Drum", which is to have its world premiere early in April. The story of its filming reads like a novel — and the cameramen are the heroes of the tale.

Filmed in India, at the most northerly outpost of the British Empire — in the Chitral valley, beneath the third highest mountain in the world — the towering Tiridimar as yet unclimbed by man — the unit worked in territory hitherto undisclosed to the camera's eye. Working from this base, they pack-muled the heavy equipment to the north of the famous Khyber Pass and there they filmed, in Technicolor, some of the most glorious scenery in existence.

The technical difficulties were tremendous. Chief impediment was the burning heat which averaged 120 to 130 degrees — and there was no shade! On two days, shooting had to be suspended as the emulsion of the film was running and jamming the camera shutters. It was a daily sight to see the coolies clambering down the mountain side laden with snow from the higher peaks. This snow was blanketed around the tin of film which was kept in "Yakdars" or native metal-lined trunks. The film spools too had to be closely watched and covered in soaking cloths.

Zoltan Korda, who directed the film, intended a picture of tribal life and fighting beyond the frontier. He was lucky enough to interest the Mehtar of Chitral in the work and His Highness lend the unit the three thousand tribesmen who composed his personal bodyguard. The only difficulty was that the Indian troops were not anxious to fall and lie still on the ground as casualties in the battle sequences. They felt that to do so would be to nip their screen careers in the bud and it took half-a-dozen interpreters to argue them into acquiescence.

Sabu, of "Elephant Boy" fame, plays the part of 'Prince Azim' in the film. He rides a pure white Arab stallion and, superb horseman that he is, he almost lost his life when the magnificent animal stumbled over loose stones while galloping over a high overhanging mountain pass. (I was interested to learn that, throughout the winter, Sabu spent his spare time learning to skate and he is now playing ice hockey with a view to becoming a champion.)

One of the greatest difficulties experienced was in the matter of diet. Special kitchens, chefs and cooking equipment had to be obtained in order to cook special food for the many native players belonging to strict religious sects.

There were only four white men in the unit. These four are among the handful of civilians who have ever penetrated even as far as the base of Chitral — they are probably the first to have climbed to the top of Mount

Birmagsht where the most interesting location shot in the film was taken.

The incredible hardships undergone in the shooting of this film, coupled with the thrilling A. E. W. Mason plot make the picture what to my mind is a true saga of modern adventure — I, for one, shall not miss seeing "The Drum".

SHORT SHOTS

HERBERT WILCOX has changed the title of his next picture — tentatively called "Victoria and Albert" to "Sixty Glorious Years" — production starts April 13 Joseph P. Kennedy, newly-appointed American Ambassador, will attend the diplomatic premiere of "A Yank at Oxford" on March 31 . . . Ten million dollars are reported to have been spent by Australians on films in the past twelve months — the highest peak since 1930 "Vessel of Wrath", the Pommer-Laughton "Mayflower" production opened at the Regal, Marble Arch, to the biggest business in over a year — this, despite the fine weather which took thousands away to the country for the week-end . . . The P.C.T. chain of cinemas just reported net profits of over two and a half million dollars for the year just ended — this is the second year in succession that the company's profits have exceeded the half-million pound mark . . . The government's three-for-one Quota clause has been remoulded — the Treble Quota can now be counted for a film on which the labor costs amount to a minimum of £37,500.

HITLER REVERBERATIONS

CENTRAL European film activities are naturally very unsettled at the present time. The latest reports stated that Vicki Baum the noted Jewish authoress, was working with a French author on "Return of the Dawn" starring Danielle Darrieux produced in Paris but with exteriors shot in the Tyrol. The recent Hitler coup d'etat may necessitate alterations in these plans however. The future of the film "A Thousand Years of Austria" which deals with the military development of the country and which is being backed by the Austrian Army is also uncertain. I have heard nothing recently of that lovely talented actress Paula Wessely.

NEWS FROM THE STUDIOS

EMLYN WILLIAMS is starring in the new Pathe comedy "Night Alone" which went on the boards at Welwyn last week . . . An elaborate set was erected last week at Elstree for the new Pommer-Laughton subject "St. Martin's Lane" — it is a reconstruction of St. Martin's Court, with Wyndham's and the New Theatre at one end and Charing Cross Road complete with traffic at the other — very effective . . . Smugglers were busy on the "Spot of Bother" set at Pinewood — Robertson Hare and Alfred Drayton were bound and gagged by a smuggler's gang in an old English Inn on a lonely stretch of the coast — however it was all in fun . . . Still very little activity at the studios despite last week's announcements of new programmes.

Milton C. Weisman, Counsel For I.O.T.A. Blasts Neely-Pettingill Bill.

Washington Film Digest

By GEORGE W. MEHRTENS

CONGRESSMAN LYLE C. BOREN AWAITS NEELY BILL DEVELOPMENTS BEFORE PRESENTING HIS FILM DIVORCE MEASURE

Washington, D.C., Mar. 21—(CTP) WEST coast leaders and others interested in the Motion Picture Industry breathed a bit more easily this week when it was revealed that at least one Capitol Hill bloodhound is chasing other rabbits. Congressman Lyle C. Boren, who caused more than a ripple in the Industry with his proposed motion picture divorce measure, has decided to await developments on the Neely measure before re-drafting his own bill for introduction. The Congressman claims he intends to modify it to some extent and will divorce only the exhibition phase this time rather than separating production, distribution, and exhibition as previously planned.

According to Congressman Boren, producer - owner chain exhibition houses are ruining Independents, and something must be done. The Oklahoma Representative therefore is

PRESSURE ON "THE RIVER"

REPORTS that the government had exercised pressure upon Paramount Pictures before releasing the latest government film "The River", were emphatically denied by the United States Department of Justice late last week.

According to published reports, officials of the Farm Security Board, and the Department of Justice met with those of Paramount during which a Department of Justice official is alleged to have made apparent that, it would be well for Paramount to perform a New Deal favor and avoid anti-trust investigation.

"Such a report is positively false," Canadian Moving Picture Digest was told, "The Department of Justice does not 'put the pressure' on any industry unless there have been complaints and an investigation has proved those complaints to be true. Certainly no Government Department would intimidate any industry so flagrantly if at all."

considering legislation which would leave producers and distributors on one side of the fence and exhibitors on the other side and which will at the same time break up producer-owned exhibition houses.

Boren feels that in this way he would not be interfering with block-booking in any way and would at the same time strike a sharp blow at the heart of the alleged motion picture monopoly.

"I have had numerous conferences with Industry leaders," Boren stated, "one or two included interviews with Abram F. Meyers of Allied States Exhibitors Association, and others include visits at the Department of Justice."

"Under my new idea any Independent if he had the money, could bid for new productions on the open market. At least it cannot be any worse than the present set-up."

DEANNA COMES TO TOWN

CONGRESSMEN, Senators and Diplomats of the Capitol City received a delightful surprise last week when little Deanna Durbin, diminutive song bird of Universal Studios stepped lightly upon the Union Depot platform for a visit to the nation's capital.

Swarmed by youthful autograph seekers Deanna greeted newspaper critics at a reception in the Mayflower Hotel and saw among other things, the Senate and House of Representatives in action, which must have been something of a novelty even to a movie star.

DER FUEHRER AND AMERICAN MOVIES

MANY in the Movie Industry are interested in the moot question of whether or not United States exports in motion picture film, equipment and other commodities will increase or decrease in Austria as a result of Mr. Hitler's recent decision to annex that country. According to Commerce Secretary Roper no one can say one way or the other until the State Department makes up its mind to recognize Austria as a part of Germany.

Boren frankly admitted he was not too familiar with all the ramifications of the Motion Picture Industry, but he intended to get together with other movie-minded Congressmen with a view toward drafting a "really comprehensive motion picture bill".

Boren revealed that he was looking forward with "great interest" toward looking over the approaching report of the Department of Justice on motion pictures, and added it was possible he may use some of the recommendations made as a basis for his new measure. Since the Department of Justice report is not expected for another two or three months it is not likely that Congressman Boren will introduce his movie bill to end all movie bills until the next session of Congress, if he is re-elected.

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE INTERESTED TOO

THE Neely bill is still to be debated on the floor of the Senate, so for the present it must stay at a stand-still. In the meantime the Department of Justice will within a few short weeks submit a voluminous report to Attorney-General Cummings treating on alleged violations of the anti-trust laws in the Motion Picture Industry.

This report which everybody concerned is awaiting breathlessly, may turn the tide of the entire Neely situation since it is understood that about three-fourths of the document is devoted to our old friend "block-booking". The big question of the moment is who will come down the home stretch first, the Department of Justice Report or Senator Neely.

Up to the time of this writing the matter is still pending.

"At the present time," Roper told this correspondent, "the State Department still recognizes the Austrian Government. It would be difficult to say whether the restrictive German policy will materially affect exports from this country."

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20th Century-Fox's "In Old Chicago" Big \$30,000, Paramount, San Francisco.

Shooting the Stars

Following the preview of "The First Hundred Years", VIRGINIA BRUCE is being teamed with ROBERT MONTGOMERY for the second successive time in a new M-G-M picture entitled "YELLOW JACK"; Montgomery is starred, with the supporting cast including Lewis Stone, Buddy Ebsen, Alan Curtis and Andy Devine . . . rated one of the top English actors of today, DERRICK DE MARNEY, who played the Young Disraeli in "Victoria the Great", has been signed by RKO RADIO PICTURES to play the lead opposite JOAN FONTAINE in "THE MUDDLED DEAL", scheduled to go before the cameras this week . . . so enthusiastic has been the reception accorded BETTE DAVIS in her new film drama, "JEZEBEL", the WARNER BROS. have decide to give her a sequel screen offering to be known as "MEMPHIS BELLE"; the story is an original by Mark Hellinger, Broadway columnist . . . ANN MILLER, noted young dancer, and recent screen 'discovery' has been borrowed by COLUMBIA from RKO Radio for an important role in FRANK CAPRA'S new production, "YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU", a film version of the George S. Kaufman and Moss Hart Pulitzer Prize play . . . GAIL PATRICK, currently winning praise for her role in "Mad About Music" was this week added to the cast of UNIVERSAL'S "A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION"; the cast now includes Edgar Bergen and Charlie

McCarthy, Andrea Leeds, Adolphe Menjou and Henry Fonda . . . SAMUEL GOLDWYN broke his long silence concerning his future production plans early this week when he announced that he will star GARY COOPER and MERLE OBERON



Deanna Durbin, who is currently appearing in Universal's "Mad About Music".

in "GRAUSTARK"; SIGRID GURIE will have a featured role and the production will be released through UNITED ARTISTS . . . "WE'RE GOING TO BE RICH" will be the release title of the GRACIE FIELDS' picture produced by 20TH CENTURY-FOX in England under the tentative title, "HE WAS HER MAN"; VICTOR McLAGLEN is co-starred with Miss Fields, and Brian Donlevy has a featured role . . . RICHARD THORPE has won the assignment to direct LUISE RAINER in her next M-G-M production, entitled "TOY WIFE"; this production was previously known as "Mademoiselle Frou-Frou"; MELVYN DOUGLAS and ROBERT YOUNG will play opposite Miss Rainer . . . "BLIND ALIBI", the first picture which RICHARD DIX will make under his new RKO RADIO contract, went before the cameras this week; Whiteny Bourne plays opposite Dix, and Eduardo Ciannelli heads an imposing supporting cast . . . camera work on "OVER THE MOON", ALEXANDER KORDA'S second Technicolor comedy, starring MERLE OBERON, has been completed and has reached the cutting room; Rex Harrison plays the leading man in the picture which UNITED ARTISTS will release . . . Margaret Lindsay, Jane Bryan, Donald Briggs and Larry Williams have been added to the cast of WARNER BROS.' "MR. CHUMP", starring JOHNNIE DAVIS.

Trans - Canada Showings

TORONTO

IMPERIAL

"Sally, Irene and Mary" (20th Century-Fox), with Alice Faye, Tony Martin and Fred Allen.

LOEW'S

"Goldwyn Follies" (Goldwyn-U.A.), with Adolphe Menjou, Andrea Leeds, Kenny Baker, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

SHEA'S

"Walking Down Broadway" (20th Century-Fox), with Claire Trevor and Michael Whalen, and "Charlie Chan at Monte Carlo" (20th Century-Fox), starring Warner Oland.

UPTOWN

2nd week. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (Disney-RKO Radio).

MONTREAL

CAPITOL

"Bringing Up Baby" (RKO Radio), starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, and "Double Danger" (RKO Radio), with Preston Foster.

LOEW'S

"Boy of the Streets" (Monogram), starring Jackie Cooper, and "Some Blondes Are Dangerous" (Universal), with Noah Berry, Jr.

ORPHEUM

"52nd Street" (Wanger-U.A.), with Ian Hunter and Leo Carrillo, and "When Thief Meets Thief" (Criterion-U.A.), starring Douglas Fairbanks, Jr.

PALACE

4th week. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (Disney-RKO Radio).

PRINCESS

"A Slight Case of Murder" (Warners), starring Edward G. Robinson, and "Wine, Women and Horses" (Warners) with Barton MacLane.

SAINT JOHN

EMPIRE

"Petticoat Fever" (M-G-M), starring Robert Montgomery and Myrna Loy, and "The Great Hospital Mystery" (20th Century-Fox), with Sally Blane.

GAIETY

"Slave Ship" (20th Century-Fox), with Wallace Beery and Warner Baxter, and "Big Business" (20th Century-Fox), with Jed Prouty.

PRINCESS

"Life Begins with Love" (Columbia), with Jean Parker and Douglas Montgomery. Also stage show.

REGENT

"Lost Horizon" (Columbia), starring Ronald Colman, and "Walt Disney's Academy Revue".

STRAND

"That Certain Woman" (Warners), starring Bette Davis and Henry Fonda, and "Sh! The Octopus" (Warners), with Hugh Herbert.

WINNIPEG

GAIETY

"The Awful Truth" (Columbia), starring Irene Dunne and Cary Grant.

GARRICK

2nd week. "Dead End" (Goldwyn-U.A.), starring Sylvia Sydney and Joel McCrea.

LYCEUM

"I Met My Love Again" (Wanger-U.A.), starring Joan Bennett and Henry Fonda, and "It Happened in Hollywood" (Columbia), starring Richard Dix.

METROPOLITAN

"A Yank at Oxford" (M-G-M), starring Robert Taylor, and "Arsene Lupin Returns" (M-G-M), with Melvyn Douglas and Warren William.

PROVINCE

"Springtime in the Rockies" (Republic), starring Gene Autry, and "The Man Who Cried Wolf" (Universal), with Lewis Stone.

CALGARY

CRESCENT

"Wee Willie Winkie" (20th Century-Fox), starring Shirley Temple and Victor McLaglen, and "Texas Trail" (Paramount), starring William Boyd.

EMPIRE

"The Life of the Party" (RKO Radio), starring Joe Penner and Gene Raymond, and "Springtime in the Rockies" (Republic), starring Gene Autry.

PALACE

"Bringing Up Baby" (RKO Radio), starring Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant, and "Quintupland", a short subject.

STRAND

"The Goldwyn Follies" (Goldwyn-U.A.), with Adolphe Menjou, Andrea Leeds, Kenny Baker, Edgar Bergen and Charlie McCarthy.

VARIETY

"The Man Who Called Wolf" (Universal), with Lewis Stone, and "Love in a Bungalow" (Universal), with Nan Grey and Kent Taylor.

VANCOUVER

BEACON

"Scandal Street" (Paramount), starring Lew Ayres, and Stage Show.

CAPITOL

2nd week. "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" (Disney-RKO Radio).

COLONIAL

"52nd Street" (Wanger-U.A.), with Ian Hunter and Leo Carrillo, and "Walt Disney's Academy Revue".

PLAZA

2nd week. "Nothing Sacred" (Selznick-U.A.), starring Carole Lombard and Fredric March.

STRAND

"Boy of the Streets" (Monogram), starring Jackie Cooper, and "Manhattan Merry-Go-Round" (Republic), with Phil Regan.

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